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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 19 September 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that, in the absence of any serious measures of accountability to bring an end to its more than half-century occupation, Israel, the occupying Power, continues with its deliberate and systematic breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, grossly violating the human rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to life and liberty, and methodically destroying the two-State solution for peace.

For the twenty-sixth week in a row, Palestinian civilians, including women, men and children, in the Gaza Strip, have continued to exercise their fundamental rights of expression, assembly and association by peacefully protesting in the context of the "Great Return March" against Israeli occupation, blockade, oppression and dispossession. These civilian protests continue to be met with lethal force by the occupying Power, in utter violation of international law and in grave breach of Israel's responsibilities and obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israeli occupying forces have persisted with their use of live weaponry against these civilians, with the clear aim of repressing the protests and silencing their calls for freedom and justice. In the span of 24 hours, on 17 and 18 September, the Israeli occupying forces killed four Palestinians in Gaza, including peaceful protesters, and injured 26 other Palestinians with gunshot wounds. Those killed were Mohammed Ahmad Abu Naji, age 34, Ahmad Mohammed Muhsin Omar, age 20, Naji Jamil Abu Assi, age 18, and Alaa Ziyad Abu Assi, age 21. Also, on 15 September, a 16-year-old boy, Suhaib Abu Kashif, succumbed to wounds he sustained on 3 August when Israeli forces shot him with a live bullet that severed his spinal cord.

This brings the total number of Palestinians killed since the Great Return March began on 30 March to at least 174 Palestinians, including children, and the total number of injured to more than 18,000 persons.

Such intentional killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians has been a trademark of the Israeli occupation and its soldiers, who routinely engage in brutalizing and terrorizing the Palestinian civilian population. In occupied East Jerusalem, occupying forces shot dead a Palestinian man from the Qalandiya refugee

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camp, Mohammed Yousef Alayan, age 26, while he was defending himself from an Israeli settler, and prevented medics from reaching his body. Also, during the early hours of the morning on 18 September, Israeli forces stormed the Arimawi family home in the village of Bayt Rima, violently assaulted Mohammed Zaghloul Arimawi, age 24, while he was still in bed, ripped his clothes off, savagely beat him until he lost consciousness, then transported him to a detention facility where he died a few hours later.

Mohammed's death is the latest addition to a long list of crimes committed by the occupying Power, including against Palestinian detainees and prisoners, so many of whom are subjected to physical and psychological torture, direct execution and deliberate medical neglect. Such illegal and inhumane practices have caused, since 1967, the death of at least 217 Palestinians in Israeli custody.

Against this backdrop of intentional killings, Israel also continues its pursuit of other illegal measures aimed at suffocating the rest of the Palestinian civilian population and depleting their coping capacities. This is proved daily through the imposition of unlawful and destructive colonial policies intended to impose widespread misery and displace and ethnically cleanse Palestinian inhabitants off their native lands.

Such systematic violations include, inter alia, the continued construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and the construction of the Wall in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem — with settlement construction starts having increased threefold in the second quarter of 2018 — as well as the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties; forced evictions of families and communities; land confiscation; the fragmentation of the territory and imposition of an apartheid regime, including through hundreds of checkpoints and a permit regime institutionalizing racist and discriminatory policies against Palestinians; and the imprisonment, detention and torture of thousands of Palestinians, even for simply engaging in peaceful protest against this vile and illegal foreign occupation.

All of this is being committed by the occupying Power in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Charter of the United Nations, countless relevant United Nations resolutions and all human rights instruments, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. While it is nearly impossible to document every violation, whether committed by the Israeli Government or its occupying forces or illegal settlers, the incidents described below are only two recent examples of such daily and constant brutality meted out by Israel, the occupying Power, against our people.

On 18 September in occupied East Jerusalem, hundreds of extremist Israeli settlers protected by Israeli so-called police and occupying forces stormed Haram al-Sharif, carrying out provocative tours in the mosque's courtyards. The Israeli forces assaulted Palestinian worshippers, mosque guards and staff and detained five Palestinians, while four Palestinians required hospitalization following violent beatings.

We call once again for the cessation of all provocations, incitement and aggression against Haram al-Sharif and call for respect for the sanctity of this holy site. Israel, the occupying Power, must also respect the historic status quo at this sacred site and cease all actions that are inflaming the situation and risk exacerbating heightened religious sensitivities, with potentially grave consequences.

I have also repeatedly highlighted the worrying and urgent case of Khan al-Ahmar in past letters in an ongoing attempt to draw international attention to the imminent demolition and ethnic cleansing of the village by occupation forces and as an appeal for action to prevent this war crime.

In follow-up to my previous letter in this regard, I must inform you that Israel has begun implementing its plans to forcibly expel the 181 inhabitants of Khan al-Ahmar and destroy the entire village, including all Palestinian civilian and livelihood structures. The explicit intent of these criminal and cruel acts is to erase and eradicate the Palestinian presence and continuity on the land and to facilitate Israel's illegal settlement expansion in the area, in grave breach of international law and numerous United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), with the ultimate aim of destroying the territorial contiguity of the occupied West Bank and the physical possibility of the two-State solution.

Faced with such threats, dozens of Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights activists have stood firm, spending nights in Khan al-Ahmar in support of the vulnerable Bedouin community. The international community, including through the United Nations and the European Parliament, has expressed its condemnation of Israel's reckless behaviour and warned that the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar and the forcible transfer of its inhabitants would amount to a war crime.

In this regard, in a statement made today, Eid Abu Khamis, Community Leader of Khan al-Ahmar, stressed the families' fears that the only home they had ever known for 53 years would be demolished and acknowledged that international support over past years was likely among the only reasons why the community had so far survived demolition threats, underscoring the importance of international insistence on respect for international law. Moreover, he stressed the community's position: "We want to stay where we are or go back to our own lands in the Naqab Desert, which our family was forced out of by Israel in 1952. We love living in the desert and we don't want to give up our Bedouin culture or our way of life, to have to go and live in a town, next to a garbage dump or sewage plant."

While we welcome the international expressions of support, it is clear that they must be urgently complemented with concrete action if Khan al-Ahmar and the future of the two-State solution are to be salvaged. Calls for respect for the rule of law need to be followed by concrete action to hold perpetrators accountable, ensure respect for international law and prevent the recurrence of such crimes. This is essential vis-à-vis the Israeli government, which has claimed in a recent letter to the Israeli "Supreme Court" that it is "allowed to ignore the directives of international law in any field it desires", admitting that it considers itself as a State above the law.

We reiterate our call to the international community, particularly the Security Council, to fulfil its responsibilities, including with regard to ensuring the protection of civilians in all circumstances. As we have stated in the past, the Palestinian people cannot remain the exception to the international commitments to and obligations under international law, including to protect civilians from such atrocities and grave breaches.

Simultaneously, the Security Council must exert serious efforts to uphold its Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security and must act forthwith to implement its relevant resolutions. Only this will take us beyond crisis management and contribute to the realization of a genuine solution that brings an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, justly resolves all core issues, including the plight of the Palestine refugees, in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and enables the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including to self-determination in an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 646 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 September 2018 (A/ES-10/789-

S/2018/823), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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General Assembly
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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 24 August 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, remains extremely volatile as Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, causing the continued deterioration of the situation in all aspects, including the continued suffering of the Palestinian people under its occupation, and further deepening despair and inflaming tensions.

Last week, Israel, the occupying Power, continued with its vicious killing of unarmed, defenceless Palestinian civilians participating in the "Great March of Return" to protest the systematic violation of their human rights, to demand an end to Israeli occupation, siege and dispossession and to call for independence, freedom and the return to their ancestral lands. The total number of Palestinians killed since the March began on 30 March has reached 164, including 23 children.

Moreover, on 10 August, Israeli forces fatally wounded three Palestinian protesters, including Palestinian volunteer medic Abdallah al-Qatati, age 22, as he was treating an injured protester, Ali Said al-Aloul, age 55, who was also shot and killed. Abdallah, like the two other Palestinian medics killed by Israel since the beginning of the Great March of Return protests, was wearing clothes clearly identifying him as medical personnel.

This latest war crime follows a series of attacks by Israeli occupying forces targeting health-care personnel and equipment. Between 30 March and 17 August, three health workers were killed and scores were injured by Israeli attacks and a number of ambulances were damaged. Scores of severely injured Palestinians were refused permits to leave the Strip, where medical supplies and facilities are at a breaking point, for treatment in the West Bank or abroad. This led the World Health Organization to reiterate once again its call for the protection of health workers, patients and health facilities in Gaza.

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On 10 August, Israeli forces also injured 300 civilians, including 8 by live ammunition, bringing the total number of Palestinians wounded and injured throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory to more than 18,000 since the protests began. Moreover, on 13 August, Wissam Yousif Hijazi, age 30, died from injuries he had sustained on 14 May, the bloodiest day yet since the start of the Great March of Return.

It is clear from successive declarations and statements by Israeli government and military officials that, to Israel, Palestinian lives do not matter. Israeli officials have been using inflammatory rhetoric and incitement against peaceful Palestinian protesters since and prior to the start of the Great March of Return, threatening to treat protesters as legitimate targets, including with use of live fire.

Among other incendiary and racist remarks, on 13 August, Israeli War Minister Avigdor Lieberman made the outlandish and fallacious claim that every Palestinian killed by Israel in Gaza since 13 March was a "militant", echoing his previous statement that "there are no innocent people in the Gaza Strip".

All such declarations and comments constitute admission of deliberate, planned and institutionalized intent to violate international law, at the highest levels of command in Israel, the occupying Power. In the face of such increasing rhetoric and incitement, it is high time for the international community to consider these facts and act accordingly, in line with international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, rather than fall prey once more to Israel's propaganda.

In this regard, we once again recall that Palestinian protests against Israeli oppression are not new and constitute a popular initiative. Palestinians have been protesting the unbearable conditions they have been facing, not only since 30 March, but for the past 70 years. They have been protesting in Gaza, but also in all the rest of historic Palestine, as well as in the refugee camps and in the Diaspora. Palestinians, like any other fellow human beings, are people who cannot endure decades of violent oppression, domination and control by the Israeli occupation forces without at least voicing their opposition to this in a peaceful protest. It is not strange, but rather normal, that Palestinians would rise up to protest the unbearable conditions in which they have been forced to live.

In addition to the violence and permanent subjugation of millions of Palestinians in Gaza by Israel through the occupation, blockade and continuous acts of State terrorism against innocent civilians, the same War Minister declared Israel's intent to inflict further violence on Gaza, stating that "the question of the next round is not a question of 'if' but of 'when'" and that "residents of Gaza will be among those who will have to pay the price".

It is thus of particular urgency that the international community act quickly to prevent further assaults against Palestinian civilians. We call upon the international community to publicly condemn Israel's latest killings of Palestinian civilians and all of its previous deliberate killings and maiming of health-care personnel, journalists and unarmed protesters in Gaza, and to ensure that Israel be held accountable for its crimes under international law by prosecuting Israeli officials who have ordered unlawful lethal force as a matter of universal jurisdiction or in international judicial forums.

Israel's brutal actions against the Palestinian civilian population, including the ones mentioned above, provide further evidence that urgent and immediate measures must be taken to protect the defenceless Palestinians. In this regard, we welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population (A/ES-10/794) of 14 August 2018. The report is currently being studied, and wide-

ranging consultations are under way as we prepare for the next steps forward to ensure that the observations listed in the report are adequately followed up.

Moreover, we reiterate that Israeli domestic investigations are wholly inadequate. The latest example of Israel's unwillingness to genuinely investigate its crimes against the Palestinian people is its decision, on 15 August, to close a military investigation into its savage military assault on Gaza on 1 August 2014, in which 135 Palestinians were killed deliberately and in cold blood. Once again, the Israeli military cleared itself of wrongdoing, claiming that there was no reason to suspect any criminal misconduct.

Against this backdrop of criminal activity in Gaza, Israel, the occupying Power, has persisted with its deliberate, systematic and gross violations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This includes the continuation of its colonial settlement enterprise, implemented through, inter alia, the demolition of Palestinian homes and structures, the confiscation of Palestinian land, the forcible transfer of Palestinian families and communities, the construction of settlements and transfer of its citizens thereto, the encouragement and condoning of settler violence and terror, the fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian territory through segregated roads, checkpoints and the illegal Wall, the raiding of schools and the constant attacks on Palestinian holy sites. Just this week, the occupying Power announced that it was advancing plans to build over 1,000 new settlement units in the occupied West Bank. Moreover, according to the Israeli non-governmental organization, Peace Now, the occupying Power is intending in the near future to promote hundreds more settlement units by issuing tenders and is promoting a future plan for more than 300 units in the illegal settlement of "Beit El".

In addition to Israel's systematic suffocation of the Palestinian people and the isolation of Palestinian communities into separate enclaves, the occupying Power has been preventing Palestinians from contact with the outside world, including through the simplest form — the reception of mail. For eight years, 10 tons of letters and packages, including gifts, medicine, letters and even a wheelchair, were prevented by Israel from reaching Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and were only allowed into the subjugated territory on 15 August. Naturally, much of this mail is damaged and can no longer be delivered.

There is also a continuing trend of arbitrary arrest and obstruction of the freedom of expression and of the press. In the month of July alone, Israeli occupying forces arrested 520 Palestinians, including 69 children, 9 women and 5 journalists. On 15 August, Palestinian journalist Ali Dar Ali, a reporter for Palestine television, was arrested during a raid on his home town of Burham following his live streaming of two videos showing Israeli occupying forces operating in a refugee camp near Ramallah. Dar Ali is one among seven Palestinian journalists who have been arrested in the span of two weeks as part of Israel's crackdown on members of the press in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Israel's systematic and deliberate campaign of subjugating, terrorizing, dispossessing, silencing and isolating innocent Palestinians is part and parcel of its overall colonial and ethnic cleansing campaign that seeks to superimpose all of "Greater Israel" on all of historic Palestine and eradicate any hopes of return for Palestine refugees.

In this regard, we once again condemn in the strongest terms the so-called "nation-state law" passed by the Israeli Knesset on 19 July 2018, which explicitly endorses apartheid and ethnic discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem. On 12 August, tens of thousands of Palestinian citizens of Israel, joined by Israeli Jews, led a mass protest in Tel Aviv calling for the cancellation of this so-called law and all other racist legislation enacted by the Israeli

Knesset, revealing day by day and ever more explicitly the State's fundamentally anti-democratic character. In response to these protests, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu instead reaffirmed his commitment to apartheid, stating: "Now it is clearer than ever that the nation-state law is also necessary."

Despite the continuous oppression faced by the Palestinian people, we remain committed to justice, to human dignity and to the conviction that peaceful means and international legality will lead to an end to our suffering. We appeal once again to the international community, including the Security Council, to encourage us in these efforts and ensure respect for international law by compelling Israel to bring its decades-long illegal occupation, siege, oppression and dispossession of the Palestinian people to an end.

We also appeal to all States to continue their vital humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, especially during the medical emergency in Gaza with the health sector at the brink of collapse, and to increase their support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 645 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 10 August 2018 (A/ES-10/793-S/2018/766), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 1 October 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to write to you once again as unarmed, defenceless Palestinian civilian protesters participating in the Great March of Return continue to be brutally killed by Israeli occupation forces for daring to raise their voices to protest the systematic violation of their human rights, to demand an end to Israeli occupation and siege and to call for freedom and return to their ancestral lands.

Friday, 28 September 2018, was the single bloodiest day of the Great March of Return protests since 14 May, the day on which Israeli occupying forces fatally injured more than 60 Palestinians. In this latest onslaught, the occupying forces killed seven Palestinian civilians. Among those killed were two young Palestinian boys, Nasir Azmi Musbeh, aged 12, and Mohammed Naif al-Houm, aged 14, as well as Mohammed Ali Mohammed Inshasi, aged 18, Iyad Khalil Ahmad al-Shaer, aged 18, Mohammed Bassam Mohammed Shakhsa, aged 24, Mohammed Ashraf al-Awawdeh, aged 25, and Mohammed Walid Haniyeh, aged 32. Moreover, on 24 September, yet another protester, Muhammad Fayiz Abu al-Sadiq, aged 21, was killed by Israeli occupying forces. Hundreds of other civilians have also been injured as a result of the live fire and other ammunition routinely unleashed by the occupying forces against the civilian population.

Israel's savage brutality against peaceful protesters on Friday, equivalent, in every meaning of the word, to terrorism, and carried out in full view of the international community, is characteristic of its actions throughout the Great March of Return, during which occupying forces have killed at least 198 Palestinians, including 31 children, 3 persons with disabilities, 3 paramedics and 2 journalists, and injured more than 20,000 people, many of them with life-changing and paralyzing injuries resulting from an illegal type of explosive ammunition that is designed to shatter bones.

None of the protesters, journalists or medics killed during the Great March of Return was armed or posed a lethal threat to Israeli soldiers. In a statement to the Human Rights Council, Human Rights Watch confirmed that it "has not documented instances where protesters posed an imminent threat to life". The killing of these

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civilians is cold-blooded murder and cannot be justified by any means. Humanitarian and human rights law are patently clear. Where is the moral outrage or the condemnation of such ongoing horrendous crimes? Why does moral outrage become selective when it comes to the lives of Palestinians?

That an occupying Power should feel immune from scrutiny in a situation where it is killing innocent civilians, children, women and men, violating the most basic principles of international law and human morality, and causing extensive human suffering and devastation, undoubtedly leads to ever-growing cynicism, particularly among the Palestinian people, who have been deprived from the protections of the rule of law and subjected to a glaring double standard for decades.

That an illegal occupation, which can only subsist through the breach of humanitarian and human rights law, should last for more than 51 years, with no concrete action to precipitate its end, undoubtedly risks destroying the credibility of the international system and of the whole edifice of international law, which the world has gone through wars and colossal human and material sacrifices to build, assert and defend.

What we demand — an end to this occupation and historical injustice — is no more than a call on the international community to respect and defend the universal principles and moral standards that it has itself developed and accepted as basic canons, all of which are in grave jeopardy at this critical moment.

And, while families mourn their dead, the medical structures in Gaza can barely function under the weight of the shocking number of injuries, compounded by more than a decade of Israel's illegally imposed blockade and restrictions on patients from leaving Gaza to receive life-saving medical treatment not available there. Hospitals are overwhelmed, reliant on only four hours of electricity a day and faced with fuel shortages, critically low levels of medical supplies, exhausted medics and nurses and a lack of specialist surgeons and doctors to carry out emergency limb reconstructive surgical interventions for the wounded.

At the same time, the socioeconomic situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate on a daily basis. On 25 September, the World Bank described Gaza's economy as being "in free fall" as a result of "a decade-long blockade and a recent drying-up of liquidity, with aid flows no longer enough to stimulate growth", leading to "an alarming situation with every second person living in poverty and the unemployment rate for its overwhelmingly young population at over 70 per cent." According to the World Bank Country Director for the West Bank and Gaza, "the economic and social situation in Gaza has been declining for over a decade, but has deteriorated exponentially in recent months and has reached a critical point. Increased frustration is feeding into the increased tensions, which have already started spilling over into unrest and setting back the human development of the region's large youth population."

The persistence of this situation for more than 11 years — of a mostly refugee civilian population held captive in one of the most densely populated strips of land on Earth, stripped of their basic rights and subjected to repeated massacres — will be remembered as one of the darkest chapters in history.

The plight of the Palestinian people as a whole remains a shameful injustice that must be brought to an end. For more than 70 years and 51 years respectively, they have been enduring two layers of brutal oppression: their dispossession since the Nakba in 1948 and the illegal foreign occupation of their land, which has forced a once-thriving society to live under decades of violent oppression, domination and control by Israel.

The continuation of this Nakba is illustrated most starkly in the case of the Palestinian Bedouin community in Khan Al Ahmar, east of Jerusalem, which has received yet another an ultimatum by the Israeli occupying forces to leave its lands and homes or else face the demolition of its village and forcible transfer of its

inhabitants. As stated by Amnesty International, "This act is not only heartless and discriminatory; it is illegal. The forcible transfer of the Khan Al Ahmar community amounts to a war crime. Israel must end its policy of destroying Palestinians' homes and livelihoods to make way for settlements." This unlawful act would also totally destroy the territorial contiguity of the occupied West Bank and the physical possibility of the two-State solution, proving yet again that this act constitutes part and parcel of Israel's illegal colonization campaign of our land.

The international community must not remain silent in the face of these blatant crimes being committed by Israel's brutal occupation machine and must ensure accountability and justice for the Palestinian people.

It is shocking that, despite Israel's occupation constituting one of the most well-documented situations in the world, with scores of eminent United Nations experts, lawyers and scholars alleging and proving that international crimes have been committed, no Israeli politician, military personnel or settler responsible for such crimes has ever been brought to justice. While domestic Israeli investigations are wholly inadequate, with Israeli courts serving solely the interests of the occupier and rubber-stamping Israeli crimes, the International Criminal Court is a viable independent judicial body capable of ending impunity for crimes committed against the Palestinian people, and we call upon all States to fully support its work.

In the light of Israel's ongoing, premeditated killing and maiming of unarmed protesters in Gaza and its imminent destruction of the village of Khan Al Ahmar, we again call on the international community to uphold its obligation to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population.

Moreover, we shall continue to insist that the broader historical context be addressed. The international community must finally make Israel acknowledge that injustice and oppression are the cause of the cycles of crisis and conflict, and that only an end to its occupation and illegal policies can ensure peace and security, not only for Palestinians and Israelis, but also for the entire region. We thus appeal again to the international community, including the Security Council, to act, with responsibility and conscience, to bring an end to Israel's illegal occupation and to all of its crimes against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population and their land so that this cruel and tragic chapter of conflict and occupation can end and a chapter of peace, security and freedom can finally be opened.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 647 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 19 September 2018 (A/ES-10/795–S/2018/858), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
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